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of the people. Much use is made of the debates in state constitutional conventions. The book is to be especially commended for its well asserted information upon recent constitutions in the various States. Comparative study of constitutions is closely related to the more general subject of comparative legislation. This is well illustrated in our author's treatment of the varying legal status of the negro in American history. The successive steps by which "a race without a country" has become a race endowed with full political rights are clearly traced, showing the changes in statutes and in State and Federal constitutions. Wherever the Federal constitution is considered, whether the special topic is its formulation, exposition, amendment, or interpretation, the standpoint is that of adaptation to conscious needs and popular demands.

An appendix contains the text of the constitution with a citation of cases interpreting its various sections and clauses. Of these the longest list—about 200 cases—is appended to Section 10 of the First Article, which contains prohibitions upon the States. The interstate commerce clause and the section stating the jurisdiction of the Federal courts are followed by citations of more than a hundred interpreting cases. Of the amendments the Fourteenth has been most subject to judicial interpretation.

Besides the general index a special index to the Constitution is provided.

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Walker, Francis. *Monopolistic Combinations in the German Coal Industry*. Publications of the American Economic Association. Third series. Vol. V, No. 3. New York, 1904.

There does not seem to be any question that during the last few years economic students have taken a special interest in the mining and smelting industries, as is shown by many monographs. Thirty years ago other industries were especially favored by students, as for instance, the cotton industry of Lancashire, the hardware industry of Sheffield and the machine industry. The economic importance of these industries has not diminished. Why, therefore, this relative decrease of interest? Why this preference for the mining and smelting industries? The textile industries and manufacture of finished iron products were the best representatives of the then ruling type of capitalistic industries, based upon free competition; to-day the mining and smelting industries are the most advanced, organized groups of enterprises, aiming toward monopoly.

These industrial monopolistic combinations are furthest advanced in the United States and Germany. The history and the importance of Trusts and similar combinations in the United States have been the subject of a great number of essays, not only by American writers, but during the last few years by European economists as well. While, however, at least some of the European authors were trying to compare the status of affairs on the European continent with that in America, the American writers were too busy with questions relating to their own country to consider the European

development. This seems to be the reason why, apart from certain United States Government publications, and Mr. Jenks in the *International Monthly*, the book which I have the pleasure of reviewing is, to my knowledge, the first which deals particularly with the question of European monopolistic organizations from an American viewpoint. If for no other reason, Mr. Walker deserves credit, because he is perfectly right in stating that "the solution of the problem of monopolistic combination cannot be successfully obtained by the study of any one country," and, on the other hand, a comparison of the different countries "helps to differentiate the accidental from the substantial features of the problem."

The ruling form of monopolistic combination in Germany and on the European continent is the "cartell," i. e., an organization of independent enterprises which surrender some of their rights to a pool, without entirely losing their individual existence, as compared with the American Trust, which absorbs individual enterprises and combines them in one company under one head. The reasons for these differences in the form of combination are as much of an economic nature as of a legal or sentimental one.

The "Rheinisch-Westphälische Kohlensyndikat," the combination of mines in Germany's coal district, is one of the strongest organizations of its kind in Europe.

The individual mine owners, or mine companies are limited to the technical management of their mines. Prices and the amount of production, are affixed according to the allotment by the "cartell," which is managed in a democratic way, each mine having a certain number of votes, according to its participation figure of production, which, broadly speaking, depends upon its capacity. All sales of coal are made by the syndicate, except in a very few instances.

In Upper-Silesia a simpler organization has proved effective, owing to the fact that the mines are mostly in the hands of a small number of individual owners, who are in perfect accord with the Prussian Government, which is the largest producer in that region. In the Saar District there are practically only Government mines. We can safely omit the other coal fields of Germany, which are of minor importance.

The combinations of the Ruhr District, the R. W. K. Syndikat, as well as the Coke and Briquette Syndicates, which are now united with the R. W. K., are beyond any doubt the most important of all the organizations mentioned.

Mr. Walker has studied most of the valuable literature concerning the Ruhr "Cartells" and acquired a considerable knowledge of the situation. Anyone desiring information concerning the technical workings of the combination, will find an interesting exposition in this book. The study of the economic causes and features of this combination, and of the individual rules and practices was undoubtedly a most difficult undertaking for one not a German. Although one must take more or less exception to some of his statements, the book in this respect is a valuable contribution to the "Cartell" literature from the viewpoint of a German scholar, and will form an excellent introduction of the problem of "Cartells" for the students.

It would be difficult and hardly worth while to criticise the minor errors. It was merely due to insufficient and non-representative statistics that Mr. Walker was misled as to the advantages arising to the iron and steel mills from the ownership of the coal mines. The facts pertaining to this question, which will be found partly in the 105th volume of the *Schriften des Vereins für Sozialpolitik*, and in Heymann's *Die gemischten Werke im deutschen Grosseisengewerbe*, of which Mr. Walker had no knowledge, and the history of the last two years, which opened a new era for the combinations, in spite of the fact that the contract of the coal syndicate runs until 1915, have proved that the ownership of the coal mines is becoming more and more a *conditio sine qua non* for the large iron mills in Germany, as well as in this country.

Mr. Walker's treatment of the labor question is not quite satisfactory, and is entirely too optimistic as the persistent complaints of the laborer and the recent struggle in the Ruhr District have clearly shown.

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